

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00

COME-00 INT-05 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 CIEP-01 CEA-01 NEA-10 /115 W

----- 109326

P R 241749Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8010

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EIMIN, BE
SUBJECT: UNCTAD PREPARATORY MEETING ON COPPER

REF: STATE 230744, PARIS 27948

1. WE CALLED ON GERARD SURGUIN, CHIEF OF COMMODITIES SECTION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ECONOMIC BUREAU, WHO WILL HEAD THE BELGIAN DELEGATION AT THE COPPER CONSULTATION NEXT WEEK. (OTHERS ON THE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE A COPPER EXPERT FROM THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BELGIAN NONFERROUS METALS INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION.) SURGUIN WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE US ATTITUDE DESCRIBED IN STATE 230744. HE SEES AS THE FUNCTION OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING "TO VALORIZE" THE PROGRESS MADE AT THE MARCH PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONSULTATION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF UNCTAD IV AT NAIROBI. HE RECOGNIZES THAT THE UNCTAD FORMAT FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING WILL NOT MAKE IT EASY TO ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECTIVES, BUT HE SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE. HE HAS HEARD THAT SOME COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE MARCH CONSULTATION INTEND TO DO SO THIS TIME, INCLUDING THE USSR AND ONE OR MORE OF THE MILITANT LDCS. BUT HE EXPECTS THAT AFTER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF POLITICAL RHETORIC THE MEETING SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS.

2. SURGUIN CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT SUBGROUPS IN THIS COPPER FORUM BE DESIGNATED IN TERMS OF THEIR INTEREST IN THAT COMMODITY, AND NOT ALONG GROUP B/G-77 LINES. FOR THAT REASON, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SEPARATE GET-TOGETHERS EARLY IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING AMONG COPPER PRODUCERS (NET EXPORTERS) AND CONSUMERS (NET IMPORTERS). IN THIS WAY THE PRODUCER GROUP WILL BE A MIXTURE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. ANOTHER MATTER SURGUIN COMMENTED ON IS WHETHER TO AIM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT COPPER ORGANIZATION OR FOR A SINGLE CONFERENCE. HE THINKS THERE MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN INGENIOUS COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD SATISFY BOTH VIEWS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, WHILE USEFUL WORKING GROUP STUDIES OR SIMILAR ACTIVITIES COULD GET UNDER

WAY. IN THAT WAY, LDC PRESSURE TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE COULD BE TURNED ASIDE. SURQUIN EMPHASIZED THAT COPPER IS THE FIRST OF 18 COMMODITIES TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE UNCTAD IV FOLLOW-UP, AND WHATEVER IS DECIDED ABOUT FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURES IS BOUND TO AFFECT THE WAY OTHER COMMODITIES WILL BE HANDLED. SURQUIN HAS SOME TENTATIVE IDEAS ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH USDEL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.

4. SURQUIN OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING TO COME FROM THE PRODUCER GROUP, IF THEY HAVE A NOMINEE IN MIND. HE IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LEGOUX FOR THAT ROLE, ALTHOUGH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CERTAIN WOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP IF THAT IS THE PREFERENCE OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING THE PRODUCERS.

5. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE US DELEGATION WAS LIKELY TO FIND SURQUIN'S VIEWS AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE BELGIAN DELEGATION INTERESTING. WE RECOMMEND THAT USDEL SEEK AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS VIEWS ON CURRENT COMMODITY ISSUES WITH HIM. FIRESTONE

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